



THE GARZETTE



APRIL 1998

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

The President's Pen

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM



"97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications."

One of the things we often celebrate about amateur radio is the diversity of operating modes and bands that allow us to work our particular areas of interest. We hear this diversity discussed on our repeaters, and there's a mode and band(s) right there, on a daily basis. But every now and again we need to remind ourselves of the reasons the amateur radio service was established and the reason we continue to have spectrum allocated to us. These five purposes are at the very beginning of FCC Part 97, which covers the rules and regulations governing the use amateur radio. I've picked the very first of these purposes for a reason and unfortunately it's because of a disaster striking our neighbors in Hall County.

In the early morning hours of March 20th, a tornado struck northern Hall County leaving about a ten mile long path of destruction through Hall County and into White County. The resulting destruction took out power and phone lines and as we've heard in so many other disasters the cellular phone systems immediately became overloaded and unusable. And as in other cases, it was the amateur radio community that jumped in and established a communications system for the disaster relief services that were assisting those affected by the tornado.

The Lanierland Amateur Radio Club (LARC), Hall County ARES, and the communications unit of the Chattahoochee Baptist Association of Gainesville were the first to respond and set up a communications net on the LARC two meter repeater. In the days and weeks following the tornado touchdown, nets were set up on the Cleveland and Dahlonega two meter repeaters as well due to the volume of traffic being passed via the LARC repeater. Terry Jones, K4FB, President of LARC, has estimated that over

Helping Hams

by Kevin Berry, KF4RMA

Saturday morning March 21st, began much like many other mornings: up early, a cup of coffee and a bowl of cereal, then out to the car and on the road. Before I was out of the driveway the dual-bander was on and I keyed up the GARS 2m repeater saying, "KF4RMA mobile monitoring." "Good morning Kevin, KM4Z, glad to have you with us.", came the reply. That's what began to make this different than any other morning in recent memory.

It was 0600 and I, along with several other GARS Hams, were meeting on the frequency, as we'd arranged the night before. We were on our way to Hall County, about 40 miles North, to assist with the disaster relief effort in the aftermath of the previous day's deadly tornado. Lead by Lowry Rouse, KM4Z, the GARS ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Emergency Coordinator, our group of volunteers were under way.

We knew that 12 people died in the disaster and more than 60 were injured. We knew there was extensive property damage including destruction of homes, businesses and schools. We knew there was a need for communications to support the relief effort. We knew we could help. What we didn't know was exactly where we'd be going or what we'd be doing.

The plan was to get on the road to Gainesville, contact Lowry on the radio, and coordinate our destination with relief workers on site, going wherever they needed us. One by one, the familiar call signs came through the speaker, loud and clear: KE4GYM Ike Chapman, KF4PZZ Alan Johnston, KF4VQA Jeff Lewis, KE4YZS Buddy Menshew, WT4XX Larry Osborne, and KT4NK David Schulte. We were all on our way, converging on Gainesville from all different parts of Gwinnett county.

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The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII text format or Microsoft Word format by email to ad4pz@aol.com. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as an unencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer.

Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

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Paul Brisendine, K4HCM will be assisting each month with the labels, postage and other GARZETTE preparations for mailing. Thank You Paul!!

All correspondence relating to articles posted in The GARZETTE or for information concerning advertisement rates for The GARZETTE should be directed to the following address:

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**On The Air
with
Sara Haynes
KT4MQ
by
Karl Phillips, K4GZZ**



This month's On The Air features Sara Haynes - KT4MQ. Sara was born in Birmingham and at the age of 18 months her parents re-located to Athens, Alabama. At the age of 9 she moved to Atlanta, but moved once again at the age of 12 to Tonbridge, England, near London. At 14, she moved to Michigan. (I am beginning to get jet lag!!) But wait....Sara is not through moving yet because at the age of 17 she moved back to Atlanta. She graduated from Henderson high school thenyou guessed it!....moved to Tampa, Florida to attend college. After a period of time she moved back to Athens, Alabama to go attend college. Guess where she moved next ?? Back to Tampa. There she met her husband, Danny. Travels over yet, Sara ? Nope. They moved to Huntsville for a year then back to Atlanta in 1993....you might guess that Sara's father was military, with all that moving going on, but Sara's dad was a minister. Sara never had time for the military because she was moving so much !! It's not surprising to find out that Sara is a homemaker now and with two kids.

Sara held a Novice ticket at the age of 15 while living in Michigan. She was licensed - KA8MHS. Her brother, Gardner, taught Sara the code before she was able to read...at the age of 7. Gardner lives in Port Murray, New Jersey, licensed WB4LAO and is a CW "hound". After her Novice ticket expired, around 1985, she left ham radio, but got re-interested in 1993. Her re-interest in the hobby was spawned from a combination of having children and a conversation that she had with Gardner. It seems that after having her two sons, Sara began to think that amateur radio would be an excellent environment in which to raise her kids around. Her brother, being a very "pro ham radio" person enticed her to get back into the hobby.

Upon getting re-licensed in 1993, Sara became KE4RJC. Sara never owned a 2 meter rig until 1996, when she got her Gen-

eral ticket via a "Howie Gould W4NVF testing session." Her interest in GARS started in 1993 when the G.A.R.S. name popped up every single time she would go to HRO. After passing the General, Sara attended her first GARS field day. Sara passed her Advanced in 1994 and her Extra in November of 1997 while attending the Lawrenceville fest....test given by...you guessed it.....Howie - W4NVF.

Have you ever met a YL whose husband was not a ham ????? Well...you have now. Danny is not a ham and has only a little interest. Sara says she thinks there is a possibility that he will get his ticket, but that it might not happen until 1999. She says Danny is way too busy this year, even if he did develop a strong interest. We will all wait and see on this one. I hope he does get interested.

Sara, Danny and their two sons, Robert 5 and Timothy 4 live in Tucker. Danny works for Eka Chemicals. Due to the fact that Sara's weekends are devoted to family activities, her "On The Air" activities are limited mainly to during the week in the daytime. Sara daily checks into nets out of New York on 40 meters and has a regular schedule with Gardner on 20 meters during the week.

Sara says that she will be getting more involved in the club as her two boys grow. She also hopes that they will follow in her footsteps and become amateurs. They do have a small interest in ham radio and many times sit in her lap during her QSO's. She also hopes that they turn out to be members of GARS. As they get older, Sara hopes to bring them to GARS activities as she feels that the club is also a good environment for young people to be associated. She describes GARS as the "fun club" of Atlanta. She regrets that

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Ares SkyWarn

By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z
Gwinnett Co. E.C.



A "FAQ" in the ARES realm is, "How far should we go to please any one particular agency's requests for help?" In an attempt to answer that question, I've taken some information from the ARRL's Public Service Communications Manual, Chapter 7, and will use it as this month's article.

ON SERVING "SERVED" AGENCIES: Meeting the communication needs of "served" agencies is a challenging and sometimes dismaying proposition in today's complex disaster/emergency relief arena. As more of the population moves to disaster-prone areas, and less government funding is available, more pressure is consequently placed on agencies to use (and sometimes abuse) the volunteer sector for support of their missions in disaster mitigation. Toes are sometimes stepped on and volunteer morale can be undermined.

WHAT TO DO: First, it is imperative that a detailed local operational plan be developed with agency managers in the jurisdiction that set forth precisely what each organization's expectations are during a disaster operation. ARES and agency officials must work jointly to establish protocols for mutual trust and respect. Make sure they know who the principle ARES officials are in the jurisdiction. All matters involving recruitment and utilization of ARES Volunteers are directed by these officials in response to the needs assessed by the agency involved. Make sure ARES counterparts in these agencies are aware of ARES policies, capabilities and perhaps most importantly, resource limitations.

Let them that ARES may have other obligations to fulfill with other agencies, too. Technical issues involving message format, security of message transmission, Disaster Welfare Inquiry policies, and others, should be reviewed and expounded upon in the detailed local operations plans.

WHAT AGENCIES TO SERVE:

Another challenge ARES faces is the number of agencies that demand communications support during a disaster. A local ARES unit only has so much to go around, and it can't possibly meet every agency's needs.

While the League (ARRL) several formal Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) with disaster and emergency response agencies including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Weather Service, Red Cross, Salvation Army, National Communication Systems, and Associated Public Safety Communications Officers, these documents merely set forth a framework for possible cooperation at the local level. While they are designed to encourage mutual recognition, cooperation and coordination, they should not be interpreted as to commit, obligate or mandate in any way that an ARES unit must serve a particular agency, or meet all of its needs, in a jurisdiction. MOU's are "door openers," to help get your foot in the door and that's all. It's up to the ARES jurisdiction's planning committee to decide whether or not to pursue a local operational plan with an agency. The decision will be based on local needs of the agency in question, resources you have to support them, and other prioritized commitments that already exist.

To address this, sit down with fellow ARES members, EC, AEC's and DEC, and determine what agencies are active in the area, evaluate each of their needs and which ones you are capable of meeting. Then prioritize these agencies and needs. After everyone is in agreement, sit down with your counterparts in each of the agencies and execute local, detailed operational plans and agreements in light of your priority list based on the above.

Given the above, a local ARES jurisdiction should always be working to

MAY Birthdays Within GARS

By Jack Herndon, WU4H

1	KD4RBI	Jeff Cape
1	W4WFM	Frank Madden
2	KF4ALZ	Cheryl Adams
4	KU4JG	Beth Todd
4	KR4NQ	Randy Bassett
5	N4ACK	Alan Hecht
6	KF4UNV	Erik Benner
8	AF4FF	Michael Todd
8	KF4GSS	Rich Hein
8	AF4FE	Matthew Todd
10	KE4OFA	Maurice Burke
10	KF4HLM	Michael Campbell
11	KF4MWI	Brian Siegmund
14	N1TOQ	Barry Zoll
16	KC4ZKT	George May
16	KE4WVV	Rita Biddle
17	N8NYH	Michael McFadden
20	KE4QFX	Charlene Madden
20	WB4GKI	Robin Huckabee
21	KD4PCK	David Mattison
21	KF4KPV	Kelly Darby
22	AD4MI	Charles Robison
22	KB0BH	Larry White
24	KF4HSJ	Brian Cummins
25	W4EPI	Stephen Diggs
26	KD3GC	Mark Kozma
27	KF4EVD	Bruce McDaniel
31	AB4DV	Jay Pound
31	WW4K	Bob Langford
31	KF4BUL	Jennifer Clayton

Fox Hunt

A fox hunt is planned for Saturday May 2, 1998. We will initially meet at the Steak and Shake in Lawrenceville and leave out about 9 am. This should give many of you an excuse to get out and practice your direction finding skills and then afterwards go get your Mothers Day gifts for the 10th of May. Even if you don't have any DF'ing means, come and team up with someone to assist or just to learn how. There will be various prizes in different categories. The Fox will Jack/Joe(WU4H/AD4PZ) who were the last hunt's winners. This fox promises to be different and entertaining, and very catchable.

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History - Phonetic Alphabet

By Carter Wood, KF4HLF

How did our phonetic alphabet come to be? Was it always the same as the present version? If so, why are all those guys in old movies using a different set of words for each letter? A recent trip to the Signal Corps Museum at Ft. Gordon, GA helped me out. There have been at least four 'official' phonetic alphabets - according to the US Army. Here is how they have changed over the years:

	US Army	US Army	Radio News	US Army
	Signal Book	FM 24-5	Vol 31 # 2	FM 24-17
A	1916	1939	1944	1961
B	Able	Afirm	Able	Alfa
C	Boy	Baker	Baker	Bravo
D	Cast	Cast	Charlie	Charlie
E	Dock	Dog	Dog	Delta
F	Easy	Easy	Easy	Echo
G	Fox	Fox	Fox	Foxtrot
H	George	George	George	Golf
I	Have	Hypo	How	Hotel
J	Item	Inter	Inter	India
K	Jig	Jig	Jig	Juliett
L	King	King	King	Kilo
M	Love	Love	Love	Lima
N	Mike	Mike	Mike	Mike
O	Nan	Negat	Nan	November
P	Opal	Option	Oboe	Oscar
Q	Pup	Prep	Peter	Papa
R	Quack	Queen	Queen	Quebec
S	Rush	Roger	Roger	Romeo
T	Sail	Sail	Sugar	Sierra
U	Tare	Tare	Tare	Tango
V	Unit	Unit	Uncle	Uniform
W	Vice	Victor	Victor	Victor
X	Watch	William	William	Whiskey
Y	X-Ray	X-Ray	X-Ray	X-Ray
Z	Yoke	Yoke	Yoke	Yankee
	Zed	Zed	Zebra	Zulu

I guess MIKE and X-RAY have some staying power. The US Navy used these alphabets too but they insisted on putting two F's in Afirm. But then my spellchecker doesn't expect two T's in Juliett - course it can't spellcheck spellchecker either and that's 'Able Opal King' with me.

Repeater Donations

At this Month's meeting there will be a table set up to 'Flea Market' some donated items. Proceeds will go to the GARS 6 (six) meter repeater project fund. Things like: Spools of wire, batteries, etc.. Those of you that can bring things are encouraged to do so too. Take what you want or need and please leave a donation for what the item is worth to you or a bit more (as you wish) or if there is nothing you think you need and want to donate anyway there will be a kitty box to do so.

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DXCC Checker

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♦♦♦

...Helping Hams

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If a casual listener missed the initial briefing and frequent updates by KM4Z, they might not know there was anything different about this morning. Once we had the critical information about our meeting place, conversation shifted to a friendly banter, similar to the usual morning fare on our 2m machine. There was good-natured kidding about Buddy's fondness for Waffle House breakfasts, Ike checked out and in to gas up, Larry seemed desperate to find a doughnut shop and we talked about our rigs and the scenery. This easy-going rag chewing bellied our level of readiness for the task awaiting us up North; there was a lot of experience and plenty of equipment en route to serve in the relief effort.

As I drove towards our rendezvous, it struck me how little formal training I'd had in the use of Ham radio communications for such serious business. Sure, I'd worked in plenty of emergency situations in intensive care units and operating rooms, but had not provided communications for disaster relief. Could I do it?

As I neared Gainesville it dawned on

me, "I'd been preparing for this since before I got my license!" In my first GARS tech class K9AOK, John Sokol, discussed the value of Ham radio for emergency communications. John Veach, KE4D told us how he and other Hams in Florida were on the air immediately after hurricane Andrew blew through, and were the area's sole source of vital communications for quite some time. KD4KVV, Terry Lewis, my Elmer, related tales of many emergencies in and around Albany, GA for which he'd provided communications. With this "training", I acquired and setup my equipment and learned to use it with a consideration for emergency communications in mind.

Many other GARS members also helped me get ready for this day. The weekly net controllers taught me how to communicate effectively, in an organized, directed way. 'Ol Men like Howie, W4NVF and Johnny, W4WKP (no last names needed here), both among the most experienced and knowledgeable Hams I know, helped me with a warm welcome to GARS, and encouragement as I worked on my license; they made it clear that the only dumb question is the one you don't ask. And when I think

about it, everyone I talked to on the GARS repeaters helped get me ready, by fostering familiarity with my equipment and helping me practice the skills needed to be an effective communicator.

GARS provided a valuable service to the relief efforts in Hall county. I ended up on a Red Cross ERV (Emergency Relief Vehicle), a roving cafeteria of sorts. We passed out hot coffee and warm meals to victims, relief workers, law enforcement officials and anyone else who needed them. Other GARS Hams did duty as net controllers, worked with damage assessment teams and provided base communications at relief effort staging areas.

Did we save any lives? I don't think so; the worst was over when we got there and nobody was in immediate danger. We did help a lot of folks begin putting the pieces of their lives back together. Most of all, we showed them how much the gang from GARS, the folks with all those goofy looking antennas on their cars, cares about them. No doubt about it, GARS is a Special Services Club that always ready lend a helping Ham!

♦♦♦

Look Who's Talkin

Here are a few log entries from different hams who have had recent Radio contacts. This should show the few us with little or no experience that contacts even now at our so called sunspot rise, are plentiful. Check them out and give a call for CQ on a band, you never know who'll return your, "Seek You".

Compiled by Karl Phillips, K4GZZ

Date	Local Station	Other Station	Band	Mode
2/22/98	K4GZZ	RK2FWA	15 Meter	SSB
Comments	Karl worked Igor (VA2FZ) from their club station in Kaliningrad, western Russia.			
3/14/98	KN4N	OK1FBE	17 Meter	SSB
Comments	Bacula - che Czechoslovakia with his TS430 and a mono-bander.			
1/16/98	KN4N	HL1CG	20 Meter	CW
Comments	Was a short QSO with an operator in Korea			
3/15/98	K4GZZ	S51AG/MM	15 Meter	CW
Comments	Milos in Gulf of Mexico - 18,000 ton cargo ship to Veracruz, Mexico - ICOM 706 and longwire.			

National Weather Service Radio

Its not the SAME anymore...Pat Kelley, KE4IKC

Its not the SAME anymore...bad pun...lets get right to the point.

By now everyone has probably noticed a burst of what sounds like "packet racket" immediately preceding and following an alert (storm warning or such) from the NWS Weather radio, and, in fact, it is. It is part of the National Weather Service's Specific Area Messaging system. This system allows alarms to be targeted to more specific areas, rather than a station's entire coverage area. For example, how many times have you been awakened in the middle of the night to be warned of a severe thunderstorm in Carrollton? SAME allows you to be awakened only if a warning is issued for Gwinnett County, or other county or counties of your choice.

The moniker 'SAME' actually comes from the piece of gear used at the radio station: a Specific Area Message Encoder. The gear at the receiving end should be called a SAM Decoder, but you see them advertised as SAME receivers. Whatever. There are two "consumer" grade radios I am aware of. One is from Radio Shack, their number 12-249, selling for 80 bucks. The other is from Oregon Scientific, and is available in two flavors: desktop or handheld. Oregon Scientific's web page has woefully little information about them. Tech America has the desktop version for sale, at 20 bucks more than the suggested retail list price! The box offers no more info, and no one at Tech Am seems to know anything about them. Oregon Sci says the desktop should sell for 50 bucks, and the handheld for 70. Both radios have an LC display to display, presumably, the type of alert, and maybe the code for the alerted area. Significantly, neither version says anything about being able to enter which areas you want to be alerted for, and neither seems to have a keypad, which would almost be required to enter that information. So, until further information is available, I would stick with the Radio Shack model. I sure wouldn't pay Tech

Am's "premium". I have Radio Shack's model, so I know how it is supposed to work (I'll explain the "supposed" later).

The radio looks like the typical desktop weather radio. It has a built in AC supply (no wall brick, just an AC cord), and uses one 9 volt battery for back up. There are three buttons on the top front of the radio, labeled Off, Weather, and Alert. Off will silence an alert, Weather toggles the audio on and off, and Alert toggles the SAME alert function. There is also a front panel volume control for the standard audio. You can tell it's not your standard weather radio when you notice the display, and lift up the cover exposing a 12 button keypad. The LC display is an 8 character alpha-numeric readout of radio status and alert codes when received. There are also three LEDs which illuminate to indicate the level of an alert: Statement, Watch, or Warning, and they will stay illuminated for the duration of the alert. The keypad is used to enter the codes for the areas you want to be alerted for, and to select the frequency of the station you wish to receive (162.55 for most of us, 162.40 for those closer to Athens). All seven of the standard Weather Radio frequencies are available. As for the county codes, I'll list some of those at the end of the article, and codes for a forecast office's entire coverage area are available from their web page. The radio comes programmed for a non-standard location code of 999999, which is Radio Shack's code for "everywhere". This code can be changed to a legitimate county code for single county alerting, or, by toggling a switch on the bottom of the radio, up to 14 more codes can be entered. Since I don't want a storm sneaking up on me, I have Gwinnett and all of the bordering counties (except Hall and Barrow, which are

ARLB022 Spectrum Protection Bill Introduced

At the request of the ARRL, a bill has been introduced in Congress to ensure the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The bill, HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998, would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. The bill was introduced March 27 by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida, a Republican, with the cosponsorship of Rep Ron Klink of Pennsylvania, a Democrat.

If approved, the measure would amend Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 to preclude reallocation of any primary Amateur Radio allocations or diminution of any secondary allocations, and would block any additional allocation within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to Amateur Radio, unless the Commission at the same time provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Service.

The bill points out that a basic purpose of Amateur Radio is to provide "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and that Amateur Radio has "consistently and reliably" provided emergency communication during and after disasters. The measure notes that the FCC has "taken actions which have resulted in the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs."

HR 3572 has been referred to the House Commerce Committee. An effort is under way to enlist additional cosponsors for the measure.

The full text of the bill is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572>:

- from the ARRL

March Meeting Minutes

by John Sokol, K9AOK - Secretary

The meeting was opened by President Ike Chapman at 7:35PM. Ike proceeded to inform members of a change in the May meeting as the church is being used. The meeting will be held at the Gwinnett Justice & Administration Building on Langley Drive on May 18th. Introduction of officers and all attendees ensued.

Barry Zoll, N1TOQ, was presented with certificate for dog show participation. Both Erik Benner, KF4UNV, and John Kemker, KF4MZD, were recognized in absentia for their service as recent no code class instructors. Win Jackson, N1TWX was also recognized with a certificate for his serving as instructor for the General Class (with only one participant). Not to be overlooked was Pete Culwell, N4EW, who was also recognized in absentia for his outstanding work with the Advanced Class theory he taught. A new round of classes will begin April 14th.

Ike showed the audience the lovely wall hanging donated by Pam Lewis, KD4YHJ for raffle with proceeds to go to the 6-Meter Repeater Fund.

Our Program Chairman, Johnny Fearon, W4WKP, introduced Tom Hand, W4WDS, our guest speaker for the evening. Tom gave an informative presentation on transformers. He introduced a number of interesting demonstrations for measuring transformers including use of a variac, etc. He discussed hypersil transformers with different form of core and steel with much higher efficiency. He also noted various components used in transformer construction and insulation. Tom answered a number of questions and noted he has replaced many transformers on Heathkit SB-220 HF amplifiers.

The business portion of the meeting then continued. Ike solicited help for the March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon around Lawrenceville on April 25th. Win Jackson, N1TWX volunteered to coordinate. Ike also noted the club needs a new PR Chairman. Howie Gould, W4NVF, volunteered if no one else would serve.

Treasurer Randy Drescher, K4HS,

gave a presentation on the proposed GARS 1998 Budget. A number on income and expense issues were discussed. Upon appropriate motion and second of same, the 1998 Budget was approved as presented.

Membership Chairman Jack Herndon, WU4H, presented several new proposed members for acceptance into the club. All were unanimously approved and a special GARS welcome was extended to John Delgano, KF4WCL; John Shih, WA4YVS; and Justin Durrance, KA4RQM.

Next topic was discussion of the annual GARS Picnic. The Picnic will likely move back to Fort Yargo (better for families w/ swimming etc.) and be held the week after 4th of July.

Newsletter Editor Joe Biddle, AD4PZ needs help with a "production crew" to send the Garzette. Paul Brisendine, K4HCM volunteered.

Speaking of news, our good friend and GARS member, Toshi Watanabe, AD4ZZ, will visit us from Japan in August. He notes there is a BIG Hamfest in Tokyo in August and he has a friend who rents a booth. Toshi asked for permission to promote GARS at this Hamfest!

There was a "Fox hunt" after last Saturday morning's breakfast. The winners were the AD4PZ/WU4H team who captured the "fox" a/k/a W4NVF.

Apparel Coordinator Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, addressed apparel issues and asked for help for Hospitality Table service at Field Day.

CW Net Manager Gene Gach, KF4NOG needs senders to help with Tuesday evening code practice.

President Ike Chapman noted the club involvement with the 1998 ARC Hamfest will be to help with talk-in and PA announcing all for goodwill. The ARC Hamfest will be for one day and will be held the Saturday before Field Day. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34PM.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Drescher, K4HS, Treasurer and Acting Secretary

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GARS

Electronic Mail List

If you have an EMail address and have not yet registered it with the club and wish to do so, please send a message to **Jack Herndon, WU4H** and request to be added to the list.

Send to:
wu4h@geocities.com

...The President's Pen*...Continued from page 1*

100 hams from Hall, White, Lumpkin, Jackson, Clark, and Gwinnett counties assisted with the communications effort.

On the Saturday following the disaster, members from **GARS** and Gwinnett ARES responded to a request from Tom Crowell, KU4CK of the Red Cross to assist in Red Cross operations. We set up a net using the Dahlonega repeater handling all of the Red Cross traffic that day. The Red Cross had teams out doing damage assessment in the field as well as the mobile units providing food to the areas affected. The net operated for approximately nine hours and handled over 220 pieces of traffic in that time. During the two weeks of operations we had over twenty-five members of **GARS** taking part in the communications effort with some of them making several repeat trips up to Hall County.

I'd like to take the time and space to salute all of those hams who stepped forward and provided assistance in this operation. The next time something like this happens, and unfortunately there will be a next time, it could be Gwinnett County that's hit and we'll have to call our neighbors in to assist us. This also brings home one of the reasons we have our weekly nets, both the club net and the ARES net. Operating as net control and operating in a directed net environment gives us a chance to practice our skills for those times when we have to use them in a real situation. So when Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD puts out a call for help with the Tuesday night net or when Lowry Rouse, KM4Z asks for help with the Monday night ARES net give some serious thought to helping out. You never know when those skills that you learn will be put to use and put to the test.

At the last meeting I asked for several volunteers and want to recognize those that stepped forward to take up these positions. Mike Swiderski, K4HBI is the new **GARS** PR Chairman taking over from John Sokol, K9AOK who is now the club Secretary. Mike can always use a hand in promoting the club and club events so if you're interested please give Mike a call. Paul Brisendine, K4HCM has volunteered to head up a new team, **The GARZETTE** production team. Paul's team will be in charge

of folding, sealing, stamping and getting the newsletter to the post office each month. Now from experience I know that Paul can use a hand getting this done each month so give Paul a call and offer to help out.

We've got a couple of activities coming up soon and we need to staff up for those events. We're going to be working with The March of Dimes on April 25th and we'll need about 10 people to help out with this event, contact Win Jackson, N1TWX to sign up. The annual Snellville Days Parade is on May 2nd and we'll need a similar number of people to work this event, contact Kevin McClure, KF4HFN to sign up. Now that spring is upon us and the weather is nice again, it's time to get out and get active. If you've got any ideas for activities that you'd like to see **GARS** get involved with, please let myself or Kevin, KF4NFN know about them and we'll be glad to see what we can do. While we're talking about activities, the subject of the annual picnic and pig roast came up at the last meeting. We had talked about holding the picnic later in the year but our chief cook and pig roaster Marty Fowler, KE4MLH has conflicts so we've tentatively planned for having the picnic on July 11th at Fort Yargo State Park.

That's all for this month, hope to see you at the meeting on the 16th and at the weekly **GARS** Family Breakfast.

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Contact Jack - WU4H

(770) 995-0438 - Home

(770) 493-2117 - Work

w4h@geocities.com

**WELCOME!
NEW
MEMBERS**

Please join me in welcoming our newest **GARS** members:

KA4RQM Justin Durrance
KF4WCL John Galgano
WA4YVS John Shih

Also please join me in congratulating our newest Advance Class amateurs:

K4TJD Tom Dooley
KF4NOG Gene Gach
WB2SQS Mike Gioka
K4HCM Paul Brisendine

Best regards,
Jack - WU4H

For Sale:

...On The Air*...Continued from page 2*

she cannot participate in more activities right now, but repeatedly states that as her sons get older, she will begin to get more involved. Sara feels that GARS is the most friendly club in Atlanta and that anytime the subject of clubs comes up, she always hears GARS mentioned in a favorable manner. When Sara told her brother she was looking for a club to join he "wished her luck" on finding a club with a good membership. On his last visit, Gardner was very impressed with the contacts he made with GARS members and told Sara she was very lucky to have found our club. Gardner is scheduled for another visit this year, in July.

Sara has a Kenwood TS-520, runs 200 watts and has a 40/20/15 meter inverted vee and says that the neighbors just can't figure out what that thing is and what all those wires are all about. One thing is for sure...if they do figure it out...and don't like it.....I'm sure that the last thing Sara will do is move...one more time.

I really enjoyed interviewing Sara for "On The Air". When we began, she told me that she felt that she might not have much of a story, but I felt that our conversation was very informative and quite interesting. I think everyone that appears in this column comes away very surprised, in the end. This club is full of interesting people and stories that go along with our great hobby of ham radio.

If you happen to hear Sara on 147.075, give her a call. Sara says that she will be at field day this year, just as she has for the last couple of years. I am sure that she will be at some of our meetings in the upcoming months. Until next month's feature ham -- best 73 and good dx to all.

KARL - K4GZZ

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...Ares/SkyWarn*...Continued from page 3*

sign up new members and increase its strength to handle the demand for a particular area. A stronger ARES means a better ability to serve a community in times of need.

ANOTHER KIND OF COMPETITION: With a strong ARES program, and a capability of substantially meeting most of the local served agencies' needs, a problem may be avoided that has cropped up in some parts of the country. That problem is "competition" with emerging amateur groups providing similar communications services outside of ARES. Some of these groups may feel that their local ARES doesn't do the job, or personality conflicts and egos get in the way, so they set up shop for themselves, trying to work with the same agencies as the ARES group. It's been reported that some agencies have been receptive to their assistance.

Again, having a strong ARES group in the area will help keep problems such as this from occurring. Of course the ARES has to be doing something to continually prove its usefulness. That's where I as local ARRL Emergency Coordinator, need to be active in doing things to build up the credibility and resources in the local ARES jurisdiction, which is Gwinnett Co. The status of the ARES group doesn't just come along with the territory, it has to be developed and maintained. This isn't a one person job as we all know. It takes the ARES members as a whole to reach any sort of accountability in a community. They will always be some individuals who give 110% and others 10%, but as a whole, with the resources available here in Gwinnett Co., we should be very beneficial to our local agencies when needed.

Thanks again to ARES members for your support and participation in activities. Next month I'll highlight some specific duties that individual members can do to further our relationship with local government agencies.

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What's Legal?

NY Taxi Is it legal to operate a ham radio station on top of an unlicensed station that's bootlegging on a ham band? And, is it breaking any FCC rule to reek havoc on a bootlegger that's using the amateur spectrum for an obvious commercial purpose? Those are the questions that have arisen in New York City between hams who want to rid ten meters of illegal taxi cab dispatch services, but who are divided on how to do it.

Three lines of reason have developed. The first says that you should ignore the existence of the bootlegger. As such, these hams believe that you can operate any mode to which your license permits in the spectrum - and do so right on top of a bootlegging station.

Another faction says - wait a minute. Even though the bootleg taxi dispatch and mobile stations have no legal right to be in a ham band, to operate on top of them is still an act of wanton malicious interference to them.

Finally there are those who agree that the taxi operators are breaking the law by using 10 meters, but they also say that for hams to do anything that interferes with their communications is to violate the cabbies civil rights. They believe that only the federal government has the power to move them off of 10 meters but the content of their communications and their ability to communicate is constitutionally protected.

Which if any of these three views is the right one? That's what we asked the FCC. They say they have turned it over to one of their lawyers to research. #1072 - 02/27/98

(Via Newsline)

...National Weather Service Radio...Continued from page 6

alerted from Athens) programmed in. An alert issued for any of the counties you have entered will then cause the radio to alarm. This alarm is separate from the normal audio, and will beep or siren depending on the level of the alert. This tone has its own volume control, on the bottom of the radio next to the aforementioned switch. Normal audio can also be turned on by the alert. The radio **WILL** NOT respond to the single tone that is still used to alert the non-SAME radios. On the back of the radio is a folding, telescoping whip antenna, a jack for an external antenna, and a switch to select normal or program mode...no, I don't know why they put it there. There is also a set of dry relay contacts that will close when the alarm goes off...not quite as good as a full data stream, but useful for other purposes.

Previously, I said "supposed to work" because mine doesn't. When I bought the thing, we had a long spell of no alerts, so the only test I had to work with was the normal weekly test (Wednesday, close to 11:30 AM). I have tried various positions and antennas with no success. Finally, I resorted to a home brew ground plane, cut to 162.55 MHz exactly. I have a full quieting signal into the radio, and it still doesn't work. If the radio goes for a

week without hearing any SAME signals, the display will say "CHECK OP", or check operation. However, I have verified with Brian, KF4MWI, that his works as advertised, and he is very happy with its functionality. So, I would still recommend them, but it would be prudent to ascertain early on if it is working properly. I should take mine back, but I'll probably end up taking it apart (hams do that, you know).

Finally, SAME is not just for weather. You have probably heard that the old Emergency Broadcast System has been replaced with a new Emergency Alert System. The National Weather Service's radio network is the primary distribution network for the EAS, and local broadcast stations and cable networks are required to monitor and when necessary, alert viewers/listeners to any condition requiring EAS activation. This could be nuclear attack on a national level, or a chemical spill on a local level, or even (surprise!) severe weather warnings.

The SAME protocol is a subject for another article, or if you can't wait, check out part 11.31 of the EAS Rules at the web page listed below. There have already been extensions proposed to the original protocol as more and more folks realize the potential of this system.

Additional Information Web Addresses

Peachtree City Forecast Office: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ftproto/ffc/>
SAME Codes for Atlanta (162.55MHz) alert area: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ftproto/ffc/html/codes.htm>
Oregon Scientific: <http://www.oregonscientific.com>
Info on Radio Shack's SAME Radio: http://support.tandy.com/support_audio/40465.htm
EAS Rules: http://www.fcc.gov/cib/eas.old/eas_pt11.htm

Selected SAME Codes

DeKalb	013089
Forsyth	013117
Fulton	013121
Gwinnett	013135
Rockdale	013247
Walton	013297

Pat Kelley, KE4IKC
pkelley@hayes.com

Amateur Radio Classes

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) is happy to announce instruction classes for

(No Code) Technician Class

General Class Theory

& Advanced Theory (if enough interest)

When: Starts April 14, 1998 at 7:00 PM

Where: Central Gwinnett High School
 Lawrenceville Hwy (US29) &
 Gwinnett Drive

Duration: Once a week for 7 to 8 weeks

Cost: \$20 payable to Central Gwinnett High School

Course Material: Available at 1st session at reduced costs

Registration: Contact - Win Jackson

Phone: 404 - 869 - 1347

email: winj@mindspring.com



AD4PZ

JOE

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Make sure to get your own GARS Badge. To order, call or email Susan Swiderski, AF4FO

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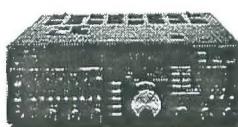


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Look for the HRO Home Page on the World Wide Web
<http://www.hamradio.com>

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Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers
 Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. Talk In 145.410(-)

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta. Meeting begins at 7:30pm. Talk In 146.88(-)

First Wednesday

HamWatch

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

First Thursday

N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off of Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. Talk In - 147.225(+)

Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Power Federal Credit Union, 4900 Ashford Dunwoody Road, 1 Mile North of Perimeter Mall. Meeting is at 7:30PM Talk In - 146.820(-)

Second Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League

Alpharetta Diner Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Diner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. Talk In - 145.410(-)

3rd THURSDAY

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins at 7:30 in the fellowship hall. Talk In-147.075(+)



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**THE
GARZETTE**
APRIL 1998

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on APRIL 16 at 7:30 P.M.

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THE GARZETTE

APRIL 1998

Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a Service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00pm (except Jul&Sep.)
Terry Jones, K4FB 770-967-6364
Johnson High School WCARS VEC
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainesville

1st Saturday - 9:00AM
George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg.
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Rd,
Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC
Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Sunday- 2:30PM - ARRL VEC
Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142
Episcopal Church of the Atonement
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville,
GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM
W5YI-VEC
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks
Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Headphones Provided!

Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

Mon	50.135	8:30PM	Regional 6 Meter SSB Net
Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Tue	28.420	7:30PM	Ten Meter Traders Net
Wed	145.41	11:30AM	Boy Scout Youth Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Thu	146.88-	8:30PM	Kennehoochee ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	427.25ATV	9:00PM	Amateur Television, ATV
	146.655 Voice		
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	145.47-	8:00PM	NFARL Youth Net
Fri	146.45-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.45-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.